



# My Future Self Part I

This lesson is designed to connect students' current learning in school with their personal goals for the future.

## Essential Question

How does my learning at school help prepare me to become the person I want to be?

## Guiding Questions

What does it mean to plan a structure for your life?

How can a Life's Blueprint help me create a path to my future?

## Objectives

- Students will understand the importance of having clear direction and a Life's Blueprint (vision) for their future.

## Advance Preparation

- Have a links to the video of Dr. Martin Luther King's Life's Blue Print speech ready to share, or have paper copies of the speech available if preferred (links provided: see Activity 1).
- Do an online search to select sample vision boards to share with students (see Activity 2).
- Have magazines that students will use to create Vision Boards available where students can see them.
- Consider creating your own personal Vision Board to share with students as an example.

## Materials/Resources

- PowerPoint slideshow 1.6 (adapt as needed)
- Examples of vision boards/vision projects

## Student Materials

- "Your Life's Blueprint Vocabulary Exploration and Vision Board Ideas" activity sheet

Vocabulary

- dignity
- crucial
- endeavor
- justice
- visualization
- blueprint

Do Now

3 min.

Think about what you want your life to be ten years from now. What does it look like? What does it sound like? Turn and share with a partner.

Introduction (Framing/Overview)

8 min.

1. Slide 3: Student Dedication (30-60 seconds)
2. Explain to students that during the next two days, they will build out a Life’s Blueprint (vision) for their future selves.
3. Distribute the student activity sheet “Your Life’s Blueprint Vocabulary Exploration.” Introduce new vocabulary words (slide 5) by asking the students whether they know what each word means or what they think it might mean. (If you choose to use the longer version of the video, Dr. King explains what a blueprint is and how it is used.) Have students copy the words in the first column.
  - a. After students have offered their suggestions, review accurate definitions of the words (slide 6). Use each word in a sample sentence that showcases its meaning. Students take notes in center column.
  - b. Have students discuss words with a partner by restating or explaining each one in their own words, or by using words in original sentences.
  - c. Explain to the students they are going to encounter these words in Dr. King’s speech, so they should look or listen for how these words are used in the context of the speech and note this on the Vocabulary Exploration sheet (right hand column).

**Whole  
Class  
Discussion**

**Direct  
Instruction**

**Pair and  
Share**

## Activity 1

8-12 min.

- Slide 8: Explain to students that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “Life’s Blueprint” speech to a group of Philadelphia junior high students about their age. Have students watch one of the following videos of the speech:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDaGhmaWmo4> (7:43 min.) or [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=852\\_SQ1EK98](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=852_SQ1EK98) (3:33 min.); OR distribute hard copies for students to partner read (download at: <https://voiceofoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MLK-Lifes-Blueprint.pdf>).
- After reading or watching the speech, further discuss the use of the word **blueprint** as a metaphor. (This metaphor represents having a life goal and developing a clear plan for reaching that goal.)
- Have students work with their partners to identify the three things that Dr. King shares that should be part of their life’s blueprint, and record these on their activity sheets.
- Slide 9: Ask students to list the three things a life’s blueprint should include. As they share, click through the slide to confirm answers.

**Direct Instruction****Media Interaction**  
**OR**  
**Partner Reading****Whole Class Discussion****Pair and Share**

## Activity 2

22 min.

- To introduce the concept of students creating or designing their own “Life’s Blueprints” by constructing visualization boards or products that represent how they see their future selves, have students explore examples of vision boards. (Two examples are provided on slide 10. To find more examples, enter the term “middle school vision boards” in a search engine.) If you created your own Vision Board as an example, you can share it now.
- Show one of the following videos, or another of your choosing (slide 11). If students have Internet access on their devices, you can give them the choice (depending on whether they prefer to create their vision boards manually or electronically).
  - How to Create a Vision Board  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjy\\_nT0yT18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjy_nT0yT18)
  - How to Create a Digital Vision Board  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTYE3ZvXfXU>

**Media Interaction**

You may also want to direct students to the following blog, which offers several practical suggestions for creating Vision Boards.

- Eight Ideas to Create Your Own Vision Board  
<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/8-ideas-create-your-own-vision-board.html>

Have students record videos and ideas they find inspirational for their personal Life's Blueprint visualization on their Vocabulary Exploration and Vision Board Ideas activity sheets.

## Closure

2 min.

7. The exit ticket is students' completed Vocabulary Exploration and Idea Activity Sheet. Remind those who plan to create digital Vision Boards on personal devices (e.g. cell phones) to bring these devices to class tomorrow. Students may wish to bring personal photos to include on their vision boards.

## Extensions

**If time permits**, encourage students to use a search engine to find more videos about creating Vision Boards or alternative products, or show one of the motivational videos listed below.

**Homework:** You may want to assign students to select and watch one of the following motivational videos to further stimulate their aspirations when creating their Life's Blueprint boards/products.

- Denzel Washington's Motivational Graduation Speech  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FB9i7P9Zs4>
- Jack Ma's Advice for Young People <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-LTA85deuk>
- DeShauna Barber Motivational Graduation Speech  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w71aDaGAtHs>
- Michelle Obama's Best Advice for Students  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxW5D5VPg\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxW5D5VPg_0)

### Notes:

**If time permits, as the instructor, create your own Life's Blueprint vision board to share with your students.**

### Additional Resource Links:

- <https://sites.psu.edu/criticalanalysisdg/2019/11/01/martin-luther-king-jrs-motivational-speech/>
- <https://wyldlifeleader.org/2018/01/15/mlks-important-speech-to-junior-high-students-a-lesson-on-audience-purpose-profundity-and-truth/>

- [https://memphistr.org/reflection-on-mlks-what-is-your-lifes-blueprint/?gclid=CjwKCAiA65iBBhB-EiwAW253W\\_MtahZmf10YCI5EEWi3dLAV5-ZLNtkMHXOFtTvd-sJ8pd0AIYtnxxoCdFIQAvD\\_BwE](https://memphistr.org/reflection-on-mlks-what-is-your-lifes-blueprint/?gclid=CjwKCAiA65iBBhB-EiwAW253W_MtahZmf10YCI5EEWi3dLAV5-ZLNtkMHXOFtTvd-sJ8pd0AIYtnxxoCdFIQAvD_BwE)
- <https://lucasjlatour.medium.com/finding-your-lifes-blueprint-template-for-reflection-based-on-mlk-s-1967-speech-aec875ceacd9>
- <https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2017/10/the-50th-anniversary-of-martin-luther-king-jrs-what-is-your-lifes-blueprint.html>
- <https://shakeuplearning.com/blog/student-created-vision-boards-google-slides/>



**“Your Life’s Blueprint”**  
**Vocabulary Exploration and**  
**Vision Board Ideas**

Word	Meaning (your own words)	Context: How the word is used in Dr. King’s speech

List **three** things that Dr. King says should be part of your life’s blueprint. Explain why.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

What video(s) about vision boards did you watch?

What are some ideas you have for creating your own Life’s Blueprint?